

# The LOVER.

By MARMADUKE MYRTLE, Gent.

*Parva leves capiunt animos.*

Ovid.

*M.A. —  
Mr. Thos. Paine  
rather resembles  
the Style of  
Mr. J. H. Steele.*

Tuesday, April 6. 1714.

**I** Was the other Night in the Box of the Gallery at *Sir Courtezy Nice*, a Comedy I never miss for the Sake of the Knight himself, *Hothead* and *Testimony*, all Parts in themselves very diverting and Excellently performed by the Actors. *Sir Courtezy's* Character exposes to an extravagance those shallow Creatures, whose Imaginations are wholly taken up with Form and Outside, and labour only at an Excellence in indifferent things. To utter the Words, *Your humble Servant*, and Bow with a different Air each time they are repeated, makes up his whole Part in as pleasant a Scene as any of the Comedy. This put me a musing upon the Force of being able to act fashionably in ordinary occasions, and filling up their part of the Room with a tolerable good Air, while there is nothing passing which engages the Attention of the Assembly or Company to any one other Point. It is monstrous to observe how few there are amongst us are able to do it, 'till half their Life is passed away, and then at last they rather get over it as a thing they neglect, than behave themselves in it as a thing they have ever regarded. This matter is no where so conspicuous as in an Assembly of Men of Parts, when they are got together upon any great Point, as at the College of Physicians, the Royal Society, or any other Place where you have had an Opportunity of seeing a good many *English* Gentlemen together. I have been mightily at a loss whether this proceeds from a too great Respect for themselves, or too great Deference to others; but it seems to be partly one partly 't'other. Whatever the Cause is, I have often seen the effect to a very great Pleasantry. You shall in the instant a Man is going to speak see him stunt himself, and not rise within three Inches of his natural height, but lean on one side, as if taken with a sudden Sciatica; and 'tis ten to one whether he recovers, without danger of falling quite down with shifting Legs; and I have known it, when a very ingenious Gentleman has tried both his Legs, almost to tripping himself up, and then caught at himself with his Arms in the Air, turned pale, and finding by this time all his Speech flared out of his Head by a sett of ill-natured Curs (Price Two Pence.)

that rejoiced in his Confusion, sat down in a silence not to be broken during this Life. There is no Man knows till he has tried how prodigious tall he himself is: He cannot be let into this till he has attempted to speak in Publick; when he first does it, in an instant, from sitting to standing up, the Air is as much too fine for him, as if he had been conveyed to the top of the *Alps*. You see him gasp, heave and struggle like an Animal in an Air Pump, till he falls down into his Seat, but enjoys his Health well enough ever after, provided he can hold his Tongue. If the intended Orator stand upon the Floor, I have seen him miscarry by taking only too large a Step forward, and then in the Air of a Beggar, who is recommending himself with a lame Leg, speak such bold Truths, as have had an effect just equal to the Assurance with which they were uttered. A too great regard for doing what you are about with a good Grace, destroy your Capacity of doing it at all; but if Men would place their Ambition first upon the Virtue of the Action, and attempt things only because it is their Duty to attempt them, grace of Action and becoming Behaviour would naturally attend Truth of Heart and honesty of Design; but when their Imaginations are bent only upon recommending themselves, or imposing upon others, there is no wonder that they are seized with such awkward Derelictions in the midst of their Vanity or Falshood. I remember when I was a young Fellow, there was a young Man of Quality that became an accomplished Orator in one Day. The Circumstance was this: A Gentleman who had chastised a Russian for an Insolence towards a Kinswoman of his, was attacked with outrageous Language in that Assembly; when his Friend's Name was ill treated from Man to Man, this ingenious Youth discovered the utmost pain to those that sat near him, and having more than once said, *I am sure I could fight for him, why can't I speak for him*, at last stood up. The Eyes of the whole Company were upon him, and tho' he appeared to have utterly forgot what he rose up to speak, yet the generous

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\*  
D. Finch  
in the cap  
of Mr. Steele's  
Expulsion.  
D.A.*

*In the House of Commons.*

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The Russian, who had used the Kinswoman of D. Finch with Insolence, was the author of the Examiner, who in No. 44. Vol. 3. (April 24. 1713) has some gross Reflections on Lady Charlotte Finch, Dan<sup>ce</sup> to Daniel Earl of Nottingham, afterwards Duke of Somerset: See Mr. Addison's Whig Examiner*

Motive which the whole Company knew he acted upon, procured him such an Acclamation of Voices to hear him, that he expressed himself with a Magnanimity and Clearness proceeding from the Integrity of his Heart, that made his very Adversaries receive him as a Man they wished their Friend. I mention this Circumstance to show that the best way to do a thing as you ought, is to do it only because you ought. This thing happened soon after the Restoration, and I remember a set of Fellows they called the new Converts were the chief Speakers. It is true they always spoke against their Conscience; but having been longer used to do so in Publick, (as all are gifted at their meetings) they excelled all other Prostitutes in firm Countenances and stiff Bodies. They were indeed ridiculous, but they could bear to be ridiculous, and carried their Points by having their Consciences seared, while that of others lay bleeding; but I am got into Chat upon Circumstances of a higher Nature than those of ordinary Life, Compliment and Ceremony. I was speaking of Sir Courtley's *Tour humble Servant Madam*.

As for my part I always approve rather those who make the most of a little Understanding, and carry that as far as they can, than those who will not condescend to be perfect, if I may so speak, in the under Parts of their Character. Mrs. Page said very justly of me, one Day, for you must know I am as mute as a Fish in her Presence, if Mr. Myrtle can't speak for Love, and his Mistress can't speak out of Decency, their Affair must end as it began, only in dumb Show. I have a Cousin at the University who lately made me a Visit; I know him to want no Learning, Wit or Sense, if he would please to dispence it to us by Retail. He can make an Oration or write a Poem, but won't let us have any thing of his in small Parcels. He is come indeed to bear our rallying him upon it without being furly. I asked him, if he should talk with a Man who had a whole Language except the Conjunctions Copulative, how would he be able to understand him? Small Matters it is absolutely necessary to capacitate our selves to become: Great Occasions do not occur every Moment. The Jew said very prettily, in defence of his frequent superstitious Washings, and the like outward Services, I do these because I have not always Opportunities to manifest my Devotion in Acts of Virtue. I had abundance to do to make my Cousin open his Mouth at all. He and I, one Evening, had fate together three Hours without uttering a Syllable; I was resolved to say nothing till he began the Discourse, but finding the Silence endless, I desired him to go down with me from my Lodge, and walk with me in the Piazza; we took two or three turns there in the dark in utter Silence; at last said I to him, Cousin Tom, this Taciturnity of thine, considering the Sense I know thou hast in thee, is a Vexation I can no longer endure with Patience, we are now in the dark, and I can't see how you do it, but here give me your Hand, let me, while I hold you here, entreat you to exercise the Use of your Lips and Tongue, and oblige me so far as to utter, with as much Vehemence as you can, the Word *Coach*. My Youth took my Friendship as I intend-

ed it, and, as well as he could in a laughing Voice, he cried C-o-a-c-h; Very well Cousin, says I, try if you can speak it at once, with which he began to cry Coach, Coach, pulling himself out of my Hand; No, says I, Cousin, you shall not go till you are perfect, with that he called loudly and distinctly, inso much that we had in an Instant all the Coaches from Will's and Tom's about the Portico or little Piazza; the Fellows began to call Names, as thinking themselves abused since no one came to take Coach; upon which one cried out, What Rascals are those in the Piazza; You Scoundrels, said I, what are you good for but to keep your Horses and selves in Exercise, would you stare and stand idle at Coffee-house Doors all Night; I went on with great Fluency, in the Language those Charioteers usually meet with, upon which they came down armed with Whips, and my Cousin complaining his Sword was borrowed of another College and would not draw, wondered I would bring my self and him into such a Scrap; he had not done speaking before a Whip Lash took him on the Check, upon which my young Gentleman snatched my Cane out of my Hand, and found every Limb about him as well as his Tongue. I stood by him with all my Might, and would fain have brought it to that, that my Cousin might be carried before a Justice, by way of Exercise in different Circumstances, rather than go on the insipid, dull, useless thing which an unmanly Bashfulness had made him; but he improved daily after this Adventure of the Coach-men, and can be rough and civil as properly, and with as good an Air as any Gentleman in Town. In a Word, his Actions are gentile, manly, and voluntary, which he owes to the Confidence into which I at first betrayed him, by the silly Adventure I have now related.

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